

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image coding apparatus comprising:
 - a dynamic image coder for inputting a video signal defining a dynamic image and carrying out first and second coding processings for said video signal, to output an output bit stream signal; and
 - a coding control section for controlling a coding operation of said dynamic image coder,
wherein said coding control section controls said dynamic image coder to continuously carry out said first and second coding processings without providing a pause period within a predetermined period.
 2. The image coding apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:
 - a storage section connected to said dynamic image coder, wherein said dynamic image coder stores, in said storage section, information for a coding processing which is obtained by said first coding processing and executing said second coding processing by using said information for a coding processing which is obtained from said storage section, to output said output bit stream signal.
 3. The image coding apparatus according to claim 2, wherein
 - 20 said dynamic image coder includes first and second partial coding sections for executing first and second partial coding processings which are similar and have different contents,
said first coding processing includes said first partial coding processing to be carried out by said first partial coding section, and
 - 25 said second coding processing includes said second partial coding processing to

be carried out by said second partial coding section.

4. The image coding apparatus according to claim 2, wherein
said information for a coding processing includes a coding parameter defining
5 various parameters which are necessary for said second coding processing.
5. The image coding apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:
a storage section connected to said dynamic image coder, wherein
said dynamic image coder stores, in said storage section, a first bit stream signal
10 obtained by said first coding processing and executes said second coding processing to
obtain a second bit stream signal, to output one bit stream signal as said output bit stream
signal based on a result of a comparison of said second bit stream signal with said first bit
stream signal obtained from said storage section.
- 15 6. The image coding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said first and second coding processings are carried out for a video signal
corresponding to the same frame.
7. The image coding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
20 said first and second coding processings are carried out for video signals
corresponding to different frames.
8. The image coding apparatus according to claim 2, wherein
said storage section stores said information for a coding processing on a macro
25 block unit two-dimensionally.